

Wednesday, April 01, 2009 (file cac205)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: Human geography, Environmental science, drought and candidate 5 year planning projects

Ref A: M. Marsh & P. Algona, Human Geography, Barrons 2008

Ref B: G. Thorpe, Environmental Science, Barrons 2009

Ref C: S. Winchester, The Map that changed the world, William Smith and the birth of modern geology, Wheeler 2001

Ref D: U.S. News and world report, Issue on the energy and the environment, Aug 2009

Ref E: H. Hacking, Dry Straits, ER Apr 2 2009

Comments:

1. Ref A provides a good overview of human, Agriculture, rural and urban expansion/diffusion/stimulus factors driving development. Particular interest centers on pp 111-147, 237-260 and 260-290.
2. Ref B provides a current overview of environmental science.
3. Ref C provides a good historical overview of the development of modern geology.
4. Ref D provides a good overview of the "new green economy".
5. Ref E provides a good overview of the California water drought.

Action plans:

1. The draft of the general plan (Meeting series #7) includes a schedule of projects to be completed during the first 5 years after the plan is adopted. The following candidate projects come to mind.
  - a. Study of the benefits of conversion of malls remote from the center of towns to low cost housing, service and small retail organizations supporting green activities.
  - b. Study of cracked rock aquifers in rural regions of Butte County in order to define likely development patterns.
  - c. Study of biomass to fuel conversion that is applicable to Butte County existing vegetation and soils.
  - d. Study of migrant wild animal population and interfaces with substantial human population densities.
  - e. Study of responsible community organizations that can coordinate common facilities and interface with county government.
  - f. Study of utility corridors to minimize liability/costs.
  - g. Study of rural park development to minimize recreation travel distance.
  - h. Study of economical communication services in rural portions of Butte County.

- i. Study/quantify human geography drivers that are likely to drive development.